

TRUSTING GOD'S POWER & PURPOSE

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness

Overview

Pastor mentioned that **James 5:7-12** directly connects with **James 5:1-6**, which he taught a week ago.

- Why would James follow up **5:1-6** with these verses?
- What was the main reason James addressed his people with the statement, "be patient, therefore brothers, until the coming of the Lord?"
- What is James telling us that patience reveals?

Pastor shared the Greek word "HYPOMONE," which is a compound word made up of two other words.

HYPOMONE is a preposition meaning "UNDER."

MONEO is a verb meaning "TO REMAIN OR ABIDE."

- What can we learn when these two words are put together?

Patience DOES NOT DEVELOP OVERNIGHT

- Read **James 1:3-4**. Then read **James 5:7**.
- What is James telling us about patience?
- Why does God use trials and difficult circumstances to help us develop patience?
- Read **Col 1:11-12**.
- What do we need from God to develop patience?
- Why does James use the example of the farmer to make his point about patience? When a farmer waits for his crops to grow, does he do nothing?
- What is the parallel story for us in this story regarding our patience?

Patience IS TO TRUST IN CHRIST'S RETURN

JAMES 5: 7-8

- What are **verses 7-8** telling us?
- When James says in **verse 8**, "the coming of the Lord is near (or at hand)" does this mean that James thought that Jesus would return in his lifetime and was he wrong?
- What happens to us when we lose sight of Christ's return? Is there any reason for us to spend time debating "when" Christ will return?
- What can we, as Christians, practically do to "strengthen" our "resolve" to wait patiently for the Lord (**v8**)?

Patience IS A PROCESS OF STANDING FIRM

JAMES 5:10-11

- Jesus is our role model for these two verses. What can we learn from Jesus and the way He lived His life?
- Why does James connect suffering (**v.10**) with being patient until the coming of the Lord?
- Read **Acts 1:1-5**. What do we learn about the gift of the Holy Spirit that Christ promised the apostles? Does this promise apply to us and our life?
- Read **Heb 12:1-2**.
- What do we learn from these two verses? How are we to run "our race"?
- James is asking us to look at examples found in the bible to help us understand that patience is helping us persevere towards our goal. What does **2 Cor 5:17** tell us when we begin to worry or have a human response to our trials?
- What is **Rom 8:25** telling us happens when we love God?

APPLICATION

- What are some of the things that cause you to lose patience and be overwhelmed?
- Are there some things you feel have been worth waiting for?
- What does it mean to you to be able to stand firm in your faith with distinction regardless of what you feel or face?
- How would your life improve with more development in this area?
- What kind of encouragement would you need in order to have "staying power" if you were facing persecution?
- How can you have confidence that God is still in control, even when you do not see it?
- Do not grumble –as in, do not be complaining. The call is clear, so why do we still do it?
- What can we do about it?
- How can being totally dependent on God assist you in your JOURNEY TO GREATNESS for more spiritual growth?
- What can you do to help your trust and obedience in Christ grow?